

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 /013 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RSBARRETT:NB

APPROVED BY AF:DBOLEN

PM/SAS :DJAMES

----- 086775

R 190018Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231851

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 10112

1. AFTER GIVING REFTEL CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT WE HAVE CON-  
CLUDED THAT IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO  
SAY ANYTHING TO PMG ABOUT POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR  
NOT SIGNING FY 77 FMS CREDIT AGREEMENT. WE THINK IT BEST  
TO KEEP MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY FOR OURSELVES IN DETERMINING  
FUTURE OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO ETHIOPIA. ANY  
WARNINGS TO PMG AT THIS TIME COULD IMPLY A THREAT WHICH  
WE MAY LATER NOT WANT EITHER TO CARRY OUT OR BACK DOWN  
FROM. WE BELIEVE SAYING NOTHING BEST PRESERVES OUR OPTIONS.

2. FYI - \$10 MILLION IN FMS CREDITS FOR ETHIOPIA ARE AL-  
READY IN THE FY 77 CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION AND CAN BE  
OFFERED OR NOT DURING THE COURSE OF THE FISCAL YEAR.  
INCLUSION OF FMS CREDITS FOR FY 78 MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT  
IN VIEW OF TWO SUCCESSIVE PMG REFUSALS, BUT REDISTRIBUTION  
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OF AUTHORIZED CREDITS IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE IF WE DEEM IT TO

BE IN OUR INTEREST. REFUSAL WOULD NOT BY ITSELF JEOPARDIZE  
CONTINUATION OF MAAG ETHIOPIA, WHILE MAP AND CASH SALES  
CONTINUE. END FYI

3. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE NOT DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF  
REFUSAL WITH PMG. WE WOULD STILL LIKE YOU TO MAKE POINT  
TO AYALEW MANDEFRO, HOWEVER, THAT TERMINATION OF CON-  
CESSIONAL CREDIT RATE WAS NOT POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, AS  
PER STATE 224168. WE ARE ALSO CURIOUS AS TO PMG REACTION  
TO INTEREST RATE OF 7.75 PERCENT FOR SEPTEMBER. YOU SHOULD  
NOT LET PMG BELIEVE THAT LOWERING OF RATE IS RESULT OF  
ITS ADAMANT STAND AGAINST PREVIOUS HIGHER RATE OF 8.15  
PERCENT, BUT EXPLAIN THAT RATE IS RECALCULATED EVERY  
MONTH ACCORDING TO WHAT THE USG HAS BEEN PAYING. ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

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